



Politics

Some Losers Already On the Comeback Trail

With the election barely two weeks over, some of the losers in 1976 congressional races already were planning their comebacks.

Rep. Donald D. Clancy (R Ohio), an eight-term veteran ousted from his Cincinnati district by former Rep. Thomas A. Luken (D), said he would practice law for a time and then seek the GOP nomination to run against Luken in 1978. Luken, a former Cincinnati mayor, held the city's other House seat briefly during 1974.

Another sure contender is Rep. Ken Hechler (D W.Va.), who engineered his own political demise this year with a quixotic last-minute gubernatorial primary campaign. Hechler insisted on giving up a certain renomination for his House seat, even though West Virginia law allowed him to seek both offices simultaneously. Hechler waged a write-in campaign for re-election, but his showing was not good enough to beat Democratic nominee Nick Joe Rahall. Hechler said he would decline a job in Washington in the new administration and oppose Rahall for the 4th District seat in the 1978 Democratic primary.

The election returns had both good and bad news for House members who were thinking about running for higher office. The Senate ambitions of Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D Mass.) were badly damaged by his lackluster re-election margin in the 6th District seat he has held since 1969. Harrington took only 57 per cent of the vote against an unknown Republican airline pilot, losing several towns and winning by uncomfortably small margins in normally Democratic bastions. In addition, a referendum on establishing a state public power authority that Harrington had hoped would boost his chances was defeated by more than 5 to 1. Sources attributed Harrington's poor showing to his publicized involvement with glamor issues such as the CIA and foreign aid and insufficient attention to local problems. Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R Mass.), the Senate's only black member, is a strong early favorite over Harrington or any other Democrat if he seeks re-election to a third term.

In South Dakota, Republican Rep. Larry Pressler's overwhelming re-election margin boosted his prospects as a potential Senate candidate in 1978 against Democratic incumbent James Abourezk. Pressler took 81 per cent in winning his 1st District race against Democrat James V. Guffey, the highest percentage of any candidate with major party opposition since the state formed congressional districts in 1912.

Three of the four non-voting delegates to the House were re-elected Nov. 2, but a fourth was defeated as Puerto Rican voters shifted control of the commonwealth's politics to the New Progressive Party. Resident Commissioner Jaime Benitez of the

Meeds Wins

Democratic Rep. Lloyd Meeds survived a narrow brush with defeat to win a seventh term in unofficial returns from Washington's 2nd District House race. With virtually all absentee ballots tallied, Meeds had won re-election by 568 votes over Republican John Nance Garner, an insurance agent who capitalized on local discontent with a federal court decision recognizing special fishing rights for Indians in the state's waterways.



Lloyd Meeds

Meeds received 107,298 votes (50.1%) to Garner's 106,730 (49.9%). Garner had led at various points in the tally, but the incumbent forged ahead with a large majority in the absentee ballots in his home county of Snohomish (Everett). Meeds' poorest showing in six previous races was the 54.9 per cent he received on his first election to the House in 1964. Since the voting was so close, there is a strong possibility of a recount.

Meeds serves on two House committees—Interior and Insular Affairs, and Education and Labor. He chairs Interior's Subcommittee on Indian Affairs.

completing his first four-year term, was defeated by Baltazar Corrada del Rio as the pro-statehood New Progressives also took over the governorship and both houses of the legislature. The New Progressives have been aligned with the Republicans in the mainland United States. The Popular Democrats leaned toward the Democrats, and Benitez had been a member of the House Democratic Caucus.

Three other delegates—all Democrats—won new two-year terms. They were Walter E. Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, Ronald de Lugo of the Virgin Islands and Antonio Won Pat of Guam.

A canvass of votes in Michigan's 2nd District confirmed the victory of Republican State Sen. Carl D. Pursell over Democrat Edward C. Pierce, though Pierce can still seek a recount. Pursell received 95,397 votes (50.1%) and Pierce 95,053 (49.9%), a difference of 344. The seat is currently held by Republican Marvin L. Esch.

In the still-undecided race in the Illinois 10th District, court hearings were in progress on the question of counting several thousand absentee ballots. Democratic Rep. Abner J. Mikva led former Republican Rep. Samuel H. Young



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The attached extract from the Congressional Quarterly may indicate that Representative Harrington may not be the problem for us in the 95th Congress that he has been in the past. As you know, there is a good possibility that he will become Chairman of either a Government Operations or International Relations Subcommittee

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